

of our national culture. Charles Schulz' illustrations have inspired us with its wry humor and endearing cast of characters. Who has not been touched by the trials and tribulations of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy, and the rest of the Peanuts family?

Here is what some of Charles Schulz' peers had to say about his legacy.

Rob Rogers, editorial cartoonist of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, said of Charles Schulz' legacy to his profession:

Schulz revolutionized the comic strip. Not just with his simply and accessible art style but also his strong character development. He combined the innocence of childhood with the cynicism of adulthood to create realistic, idiosyncratic and empathetic icons.

Cartoonist Mort Walker, the creator of "Beetle Bailey" said of Schulz:

What he brought to the strips was a whole new attitude . . . [He] brought in pathos, failure, rejection, all that stuff, and somehow made it funny.

As one writer observed, Charlie Brown taught me

it's OK to lose. Losing doesn't mean giving up hope. No matter how many times he missed the football, lost the big game, or heard Lucy call him a blockhead, he still believed in himself. This is the lesson that helped me get through childhood and now helps me deal with the tangled kite strings of adulthood.

Charles Schulz was born in Minneapolis, MN on November 26, 1922, and was raised in St. Paul. He acquired an interest in cartooning while a teenager, but was drafted as an army infantryman in World War II before he could fulfill his career ambition.

In 1947, Schulz started a feature in the St. Paul Pioneer Press called "Li'l Folks." It was syndicated as Peanuts, launching an unprecedented 50-year run of over 18,000 comic strip installments.

At its peak, Peanuts appeared in close to 3,000 newspapers in 75 countries and was published in over 20 different languages to more than 355 million daily readers. Charles Schulz' television special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," has run for 34 consecutive years. In all, more than 60 animated specials have been created based on "Peanuts" characters. Four feature films, 1,400 books, and a hit Broadway musical about the "Peanuts" characters also have been produced.

Charles Schulz' achievements are all the more remarkable because, throughout his career, he had worked without any artistic assistants, unlike most syndicated cartoonists. Schulz painstakingly drew every line and frame in his comic strip for 50 years, and unparalleled commitment to his art and profession.

In 1994, while speaking before the National Cartoonists Society, Charles Schulz said of his comic strip, "There's still a market for things that are clean and decent." Charles Schulz has given generations of children a cast of colorful characters to grow up with and to teach the small and large lessons of life.

In his farewell strip, Charles Schulz wrote, "Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy * * * how can I ever forget them * * *" These characters will stay with us forever and we will certainly never forget their creator, Charles Schulz.

There is still something we can do for Charles Schulz and his family.

For the past several months, I have worked on legislation to award Charles Schulz the Congressional Gold Medal for his outstanding career and community service.

In fact, on Thursday, February 10, just 2 days before Charles Schulz' passing, I formally introduced the legislation to award him the Gold Medal. While Charles Schulz can no longer personally receive this honor, the posthumous award would be the proper gesture to his wife Jeanne, their children, and to the millions of "Peanuts" fans around the world.

As the world's preeminent cartoonist, Charles Schulz is more than qualified to join the 17 other Americans who have received the Congressional Gold Medal for their contribution to the Arts.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in posthumously awarding Charles Schulz the Congressional Gold Medal. This would be one small token of our nation's great appreciation of this man who gave us all so much.●

RECOGNITION OF WIND RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S MS. TRACI ECCLES

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, last month I had the pleasure of visiting Wind River Middle School in Stevenson, WA. One of the reasons why the students at this school excel is because of its teachers and the commitment they demonstrate each day in their classrooms. One of the teachers who has made a tremendous impact on the education of her students is Ms. Traci Eccles. Ms. Eccles is a dedicated professional, a staff leader, a team player and most importantly, a teacher who encourages her students to grow. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Eccles' commitment to her students and award her with my 32d Innovation in Education Award.

As a teacher of language arts to 7th and 8th grade students for more than a decade, she is constantly working to improve the lives of her students. She has also teamed up with her colleagues to create school-wide programs on topics such as health and nutrition, student tolerance, and a hands-on study of the respective decades of the 20th century.

Six years ago, Ms. Eccles and her colleagues wanted to create more tolerance amongst their students and started a program to examine intolerance in the world and its impact. Eighth grade students must read a book by Elie Weisel, titled "Night," that tells the stories of human suffering and degradation during the Holocaust. The students must also keep journals and take part in discussions of current events.

Student reaction to the Tolerance Unit has been profound. At the end of the unit, teachers can see a much higher level of awareness among students reflected in how they treat and respond to each other. I applaud Ms. Eccles and her colleagues for taking the initiative and developing a program that has impacted their students such a positive way.

In addition, Ms. Eccles took on another project to give students a firsthand look at their country's history through a program called the Decades Unit. The entire school is divided into different groups and participates in a week long program where students put together historical fashion shows, learn and perform popular dances of each decade, and create a time-line outlining significant events in United States history.

Ms. Eccles' great work deserves our recognition. Through their creative ideas, dedication and hard work, Ms. Eccles and her fellow teachers have improved the lives of our children and created a greater sense of community and togetherness in their school.

My many visits to schools around Washington state have shown me that the people who see our kids everyday are the ones who should have the greatest say in their education. It is teachers like Ms. Eccles who are both the true strength of our education system and who can prepare our kids with a foundation for the future. I will continue my work to give teachers like Ms. Eccles more freedom to innovate and improve the lives of our children.●

CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, in many ways, the life of Carter Woodson represents the history of his race in America.

As a young man in the late 1800s, he worked in the fields and in a coal mine. He took a break from the grueling work to educate himself, enroll in high school and graduate after only two years of instruction. He went back to the coal mines to support himself, attending school when he could, and eventually earned a doctorate in history from Harvard University. Mr. Woodson went on to become a passionate student and teacher of Black History, establishing an annual reflection on his culture's accomplishments and resilience: Black History Month.

In celebration of this month, I would like to recognize another leader who has worked hard to chronicle the history of people of African heritage: Dr. James Cameron, founder of America's Black Holocaust Museum, located in Milwaukee. This museum is dedicated to documenting the injustices that African Americans have suffered, and to remind us at how far we've come as a society from the racism of the past.

Dr. Cameron, the only known living survivor of a lynch mob attack in the